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which, as before, is incident at an angle of 18° on the plate. In this position, the light falling perpendicularly on the narrow face, passes through it unbroken, and being within the glass reflected from the rulings, the coloured pictures of all the twelve systems are now exhibited in the microscope. If the colours which these systems now show, and which have been formed in the glass, be compared with the former colours in the air, the system F, which is deep red, harmonizes with the system A in the air spectrum, and the systems G, H, I, K, L and M in the glass spectrum, according to their order and colour, correspond to the systems B, C, D, E, F and G in the air spectrum; and the author considers that the comparison of the foregoing values in the systems—

A and F,	E and K,
B and G,	F and L,
C and H,	G and M
D and I	

shows that the lengths of undulation for the same colour in the air and in the glass are in the ratio 1.53 to 1, which is exactly the index of refraction of this glass. He further remarks, that, as the same period of undulation belongs to the same colour, the velocities of propagation in air and in the glass must be in the ratio of the mean value of the distances of the lines in the first seven systems, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, to the mean value of the distances of the lines in the last seven systems, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, or as 1.53 to 1; and that both results agree perfectly with the deductions from the wavetheory of light. In conclusion, the author points out the extraordinary degree of accuracy required in drawing these lines. It is stated that if inequalities amounting only to 000002 line occur in the systems F, G, H, I, K, L, M, stripes of another colour will appear in them; and if the distance of the lines in M be diminished by that quantity, all colour disappears.

The following communication was also read:—

Extract of a letter from Professor Kämtz to Lieut. Colonel Sabine, on "Corrections of the Constants in the general theory of Terrestrial Magnetism." Received April 3, 1851.

## Translation.

Dorpat,  $\frac{4}{16}$  January 1851.

From the active zeal with which you pursue the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism, and collect all the facts which can conduce to the elucidation of this difficult subject, I think that some researches with which I have occupied myself will not be wholly uninteresting to you; and I therefore address you the following lines, which I have also permitted myself to write in my own language.

Some years ago I employed myself in endeavouring to correct the constants which Gauss has given for the earth's magnetism. The process I adopted was by considering the horizontal and vertical components separately; but when I learned that Erman had the same work in hand, I left mine unfinished. I did not then possess the Reports of the British Association, as it was not until this last summer (1850) that they were obtained here, and when I had seen Erman's results, I at once decided on taking up my work afresh. I have made use of all the data I could procure, and have thus been able to determine the component Z at above 1400 places, including a series of observations which I had myself made from 1847 to 1849 in Liefland, Esthonia, Finland, Norway, and on the route from Archangel to Petersburg. I have as far as possible reduced all determinations to the epoch of 1830. A calculation of the several observations by the method of least squares would have required an entire life; I therefore preferred following the same path as Gauss; in doing this, however, I soon discovered that the 5th order could not be neglected; and I then obtained the following values:—

A comparison will show you that these quantities agree much better with Gauss's than Erman's do; and this is also true in respect to the agreement with the observations, especially in the high south latitudes. Thus there was found—

Latitude.	Longitude.	Inclination.	Force.
$-69 54 \\ -69 52$	179 <i>55</i> 180 <b>04</b>	-84 30 -83 34	1999 1994
Means -69 53	180 0	-84 02	1996:5

Z=-1985.8 for -70° and 180°; Gauss found -2193.5; Erman -1781.1; my calculation gives -2009.3. My constants also still require a small correction. I do not however mean to examine this at present, but propose first to consider the horizontal component, in order to satisfy myself previously whether both components depend upon the same constants or not. The probable error of a single determination is nearly 19; and to show the degree of agreement, I subjoin the following table. As in forming it I merely took from my large table every 10th observation in the order of succession, you will not be surprised at finding unimportant places, whilst others of greater note in their vicinity are omitted: it may suffice however for the present purpose. The quantities given are the differences between the observed and calculated vertical intensity.

Stations.	Lat. N.	Long. E.	Δ Ζ.	Observers.
F-11 C 1/1	0 /	. /		
1. Fairhaven, Spitzbergen		11 40		Sabine.
11. Tromsöe	(6)	18 55	+ 31.5	Keilhau.
		39 35		Reinicke.
31. Grundsät		11 35	+ 39.8	Hansteen.
41. Sundsvall		17 16	+ 2·5	Hansteen. Hansteen.
61. Danzig		1		Ericksen.
71. Doskino	, ,	_	+ 31.0	
81. Perm		43 34 56 14	- 30°0	Erman and Hansteen.
91. Tiumen		65 27	- 13.4	
101. Wandiask		65 10		Erman.
III. Tschuluim		81 14	- 24.6	Erman.
121. Botowsk		105 22	- 3.7	Erman.
131. Monachanowa		106 29	+ 6.8	Hansteen.
141. Nowaja River		95 25		Middendorf.
151. Progromnoi	52 30	111 3	+ 11.8	Fuss.
161. Nalaicha	47 47	107 18	+ 9.8	Fuss.
171. Chapchaktu		108 35	- 13.0	Fuss.
181. Zackildack		114 17	+ 13.5	Fuss.
191. Gaschun	44. 23	111 19	- 9.8	Fuss.
201. Arki	60 6	142 20		Erman.
211. Sitka	57 3	224 34	- 2.2	Lütke, Erman, Belcher.
221. F. Dunvegan	55 56	241 26	+ 22.7	Lefroy.
231. Frog Portage	55 28	256 30		Lefroy.
241. York Factory	57 0	267 34		Lefroy.
251. Fort Alexander	50 37	263 39	+ 13.4	Lefroy.
261. Devil's Drum Island	53 19	259 20	- 22.7	Lefroy.
271. Cape Disappointment	46 16	236 4	- 34.2	Douglas.
281. Lac à la Pluie		267 4	+ 19.9	Lefroy.
291. Fort à la Cloche		277 35	- 19.7	Lefroy.
301. Portage Ecarté		270 15	+ 4.8	Lefroy.
311. Chat Falls		283 28		Lefroy.
321. Pointe aux Chênes	45 37	285 5	+ 7.7	Lefroy.
331. Lake Nipissing	46 13	280 I	, ,	Lefroy.
341. Waterville	44 33	293 23	+ 11.0	Keely.
351. Dubuque's Town		269 37	+ 20.8	Locke.
361. St. Mary's		275 41	+ 31.0	
371. Detroit		277 0	+ 24.0	Loomis, Younghusband, Locke,
381. Alleghany Summit		281 50	+ 29.3	Locke. [Lefroy.
391. Utica	43 7	284 47	+ 27.2	Loomis, Locke.
411. St. Louis		289 40	+ 14.5	Locke, Loomis, Nicollet.
421. Paoli	38 38	269 56		Locke.
431. Columbus		273 35	+ 30.7	Locke.
441. Lerwick	39 57 60 9	276 57	+ 46.8	Ross.
451. Loch Slapin	57 14	358 53 353 58	+ 30.4	Sabine.
461. Braemar	57 14 57 1		+ 16.5	Sabine.
Edinburgh	3/ 1	356 35	+ 8.8	Same:
471. Valencia	ET 56	349 43	+ 8.2	Sabine, Ross.
481. Enniskillen	54 27	352 22		Lloyd.
491. York	52 58	358 54	+ 22.2	Phillips, Ross.
501. Calderstone	53 22	357 7	+ 17.7	Phillips.
511. Castleton	54 4	355 20		Phillips.
Dublin	J1 T	333 20	+ ¥5.5	All Observers.
521. Fermoy	52 7	351 44		Sabine.
531. Clifton	51 27	357 25		Lloyd, Ross.
		1	1	

Stations.	Lat.	N.	Long	.Е.	Δ	Z.	Observers.
Y 1	۰	,	0	ر.			All Observers
541. London			359	53	+	21.9	All Observers.
551. Salisbury	51	4				18.3	Lloyd, Ross.
561. Dover	51	8		19		19.7	Sabine.
571. Fontainebleau	48			,	+	11.0	Fox.
581. Nimes	43			20		3.8	
591. Malaga		44	355			13.4	Norwegian Officers.
601. Prague	50	5		27		15.2	Keilhau, Kreil.
611. Berne	46	57		25	+	12.0	Fox.
621. Seelau	49			17	+	21.6	Kreil.
63 r. Rome	41	54		26	1+	2.0	Humboldt, d'Abadie, Quetelet.
641. Milo			24			19.6	Norwegian Officers.
651. San Diego			242		-	70.6	Belcher.
661. At sea	47	7	346		-	0.4	Sulivan.
671. At sea	44	22			-	18.3	Erman.
681. At sea	30	0	318	5	-	4°3	Sulivan.
							Humboldt, Freycinet, Du-
Teneriffe	28	27	343	43	-	0.4	perrey, Sabine, Bethune,
			_		١.		Wickham, Sulivan.
691. At sea	21					21.3	Sulivan.
701. At sea			238	9		61.5	Erman.
711. Socorro Island	18	43	249	6		28.0	Belcher.
721. Ulean		22	143	57		10.8	Lütke.
731. At sea	8	55	235	48	-	27.8	Erman.
741. La Guayra	10	36	292	54	+	2.6	Humboldt.
751. Morales	8	15	286	0	-	7.0	Humboldt.
761. At sea	10	7	319	5 <b>1</b>	+	48.9	Sulivan.
							The secular change at this
771. St. Thomas	1						station is uncertain; I
Fernando Po	T	23	7	20	l_	35.8	take the mean of the in-
Isla das Rolhas	1	~ 3				33 0	clinations by Sabine and
Isla das Itolias j							Allen; the force at St.
					١.	_	Thomas, from Sabine.
781. At sea	3		162			8.5	Lütke.
791. At sea	- 2		236	4		31.4	Lütke.
801. Pasto			282	39		13.0	Humboldt and Bousingault.
811. At sea	5	45	331	. 9	+	8.4	
821. At sea	5	37	341	3	1+	10.8	Dunlop.
821. At sea	<b>—</b> 2	44	110	7	1 .	16.8	
841. Shell Rock	- I	57	136	2 I		1.4	Belcher.
851. Gonzanama	- 4	13	280	27		4.5	Humboldt.
861. At sea	- I	IC	223			19.9	Erman.
871. Tomependa	- 5	31	281				1
881. Huaura	— I I	3	282	14		12.9	l a
891. At sea	- o	27	324	44	+	52.5	
901. At sea	- 8	10	339	50	-	21'1	
911. At sea	- 11	54	214			9°4	1 ·
921. At sea	-13	9	251	20		57.0	
921. At sea	18	5	219	7	1+	7.5	
941. At sea	- 19	56	325			20.4	
St. Helena	- 15	. 55	354			14.7	
951. At sea	-26	2.5	49	12		17.1	
961. At sea	-21	54	53	0	-	2000	
Mauritius	-20	9	57	31	-	0.2	
971. At sea	-22	41	69	54		26.7	Dayman [Clerk
981. At sea	-22	38	76	10	-	17.4	Dayman.
991. At sea	-22	34	. 80	10	-	22'I	Dayman.
<u> </u>	<del></del>						I

Stations.	Lat. S.	Long. E.	ΔΖ.	Observers.
	۰,	0 ,		M 1 (1)
1001. At sea	24 17	94 6	<b>-</b> 7.5	
1011. At sea		268 5	+ 19.0	
1021. At sea	29 53	313 43	- 19.3	Erman.
1031. At sea	38 44	0 16	- 7'7	Dunlop.
1041. At sea	35 48	18 47	- 25.8	Erebus and Terror.
1051. At sea	32 17	29 34	+ 0.6	Dayman.
1061. At sea	38 11	22 0	- 29.9	Erebus.
1071. At sea	39 16	30 27	- 10.7	Dunlop.
1081. At sea	33 47	111 4	+ 31.3	Dayman.
1091. At sea	35 5	117 56	- 7·I	Moore and Clerk.
1101. At sea	42 35	125 40	+ 21.3	Smith.
Sydney			+ 39.0	All Observers.
			+ 17.7	(British only).
1111. At sea	33 38	163 42	- 33.5	Erebus.
1121. Bay of Islands	35 16	174 0	- 8.4	Duperrey, FitzRoy, Erebus.
1131. Valdivia	39 53	286 31	+ 41.3	FitzRoy.
1141. At sea		312 1	+ 6.1	Sulivan.
1151. At sea	37 37	353 36	- 36.3	Dunlop.
1161. At sea		26 38	- 16.7	Erebus.
1171. At sea		52 31	- 4.0	Erebus. Maximum of proba-
1181. At sea		68 58		Erebus.   ble error. There
Kerguelen Island		68 54	- 11.0	Erebus.   are great anoma-
1191. At sea		103 42	- 23.4	Erebus. lies in this meri-
1201. At sea		124 43	- 109.6	Erebus. dian.
Hobart Town		147 24		All Observers.
1211. Bass's Strait		151 35	+ 11.2	Wickham.
1221. At sea		183 41		Erebus.
1231. At sea		188 29	.0	
1241. At sea		6 5		134
1251. At sea		132 50		
1261. At sea	57 54	170 25		
1271. At sea		205 8		
1281. At sea		213 17		1
1291. At sea	60 21	237 54	1	
1301. At sea	58 25	279 44		
Port Famine		289 2		
1311. At sea		299 50		0 11
Falkland Islands		301 55		
1321. At sea		9 5	1 1	
1331. At sea		36 48		13.5 1 Olania
1331. At sea		40 30		1.01 1
1351. At sea		87 41		3.6 1 Olassia
1361. At sea	1 -	143 7		1 2 2
1371. At sea		162 34		77 7
13/1. At sea		170 40		- 1
1391. At sea			+ 18.4	1
1391. At sea		191 39	1: ~ •	1 1
1410. At sea		202 13		1
1411. At sea		1 -	1	lm 1
1411. At sea		213 54		T3 1
	1 -		1	· 1
1421. At sea				T- 1
1431. At sea	1'			77 1
1441. At sea	1	, ,	1.	77 1
1444. 110 500	17 47	197 25	1 1 43 4	1 1 the Latil

I think the agreement pretty good for a calculation which I still expect to correct in some degree; it is also to be remarked that I PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY. Vol. VI. No. 79. 4

have taken the results of all observers, and that their determinations often differ considerably from each other at the same place. Unfortunately I could not make use of the two important determinations of the Euphrates Expedition for want of the Inclination.

As you collect everything that can serve towards a final determination of the elements, I permit myself to subjoin the following data which are still partly unpublished.

					Inclination.					ıtal rce.		Vertical Force.			
Stations.	Lat N.		ong. E.	Date.		ob- ved.	du	Re- cedto 330.	Horizontal Force.	Total Force.	Observed.	Calcu- lated.	Differ- ence.		
Uellenorm	58°	192	6 43	1847. 1847	7°	<b>9</b> ∙8	7°	38 <b>.</b> 0	473.7	1396.0	1317.0	1317.6	<b>–</b> ∘•6		
Dorpat*	58 2	23 2	5 44		70	50.7	71	19.9	465.4	1421'9	1347'1	1318.0	+29.1		
Kardis	58	512	5 17			17.5			467.1	00.	*****	100010			
Revel	59 3	35 2	4 43	1847. 1849.	70	54.4 4.5.8						1323'2			
Nawast Werder†	58 3	352	5 34	1848.	70		71	12.0	454.7	1374'5	1301'2	1312.0 1318.6 1330.4	- 17.4		
Arensburg Kabbil	58	152:	2 25	1848.	70 71	21,1	71	22'1	455.5	1388.8	1316.0	1310,4	+ 6.0		
Pernaw Tammiss	58 2 58 2	22 24 21 24	1 32 1 33	1848. 1848.	70 70	36.3	71 70	7'3 55'5	458°4	1380.1	1305.9	1313.4	- 8.0 - 8.0		
Kurkundt Helsingfors	58	8 24	1 59	1848.	69	47 <sup>9</sup>	70 	18.9	476.5	1378.7	1298.0	1311.8	-13.8		
Bollstad	60	0.2	1 12	,,	7 I	20'7	71	51.7	446.0	1394.3	1325.0	1339.0	14'0 14'8		
Kyrkstad Lambola	60 1	10 24	1 5	1847.	71	21'9	71	21.1	442.6	1385.1	1316.5	1332.8	-21.8		
Nukari Abborfors	60 :	30 21	55	1847. 1847.	71 71	40.3	72 71	9°5	440°8 450°0	1401 <b>·</b> 8	1334.3 1334.3	1341 <b>'</b> 2	- 10.1 - 6.9		
Grönwick Wiborg Turkhauta	60 4	14 2	3 50	1847. 1847.	70	51.6	71	20.8	446.2	1360.0	1289.4	1348·5 1353·0 1346·5	-63.6		
Tavastehus Wilmanstrand	61 61	0 24	1 28 3 16	1847. 1847.	72 71	8.4 51.8	72 72	37.6	427.6 439.0	1394 <b>.</b> 7	1344.0	1348.0	- 16.0		
Imatra Fall Huutjarwi	61 2	28 24	1 2	1847.	72	2.3	72	31.2	433.2	1405:8	1340'9	1352.9	- 12.0		
Pumala	61 4	16 22	49	1847.	72	6.4	72	35.6	4330	1409'3	1344.9	1361.4 1323.8 1361.4	- 8.9		
Tjök‡ Warkauss-Sluss	62 1 62 2	18 2	1 <b>23</b> 7 58	1847. 1847.	72 72	43°0	73 73	1.6	419°4 420°1	1411.4 1400.1	1330.1	1357 <b>.</b> 0	- 31.9 - 6.6		
Johannisdal Kuopio Wasa §	62 4	55 2'	7 33	184.7.	72	54.3	73	23.2	415.2	1413.6	1354.6	1377'2	-22.6		
	03	5,2	. 35	104/•	/ 3	0.0	/ 3	300	۱ /	-4420	-3310	230,0	100		

<sup>\*</sup> In the garden near my house, and at different parts of the town and its environs; including differences of inclination of more than 1° 15'. ‡ Hansteen, 1825,  $\Delta Z = -12^{\circ}4$ .

<sup>†</sup> H. F. very anomalous. § Hansteen, 1825, ΔZ = -13.3.

						]	Inclination.			ıtal	Force.	Ver	tical Fo	rce.
Stations.	La N		Lo		Date.	1 -	Ob- eved.	Re- duced to 1830.		Horizontal Force.	Total Fo	Observed.	Calcu-   lated.	Differ- ence.
Sawojarwi Sundby	63 63	22 36	0 27 22	13 40	1847. 1847.				48·I			1415.0		+32.0
Aho Wirda	64.	2	26	27	1847. 1847.			73	38·6	407°4	1427.4	1371.2	1388.0	-16·5
Salahmi	63	3 / 47	27		1847.				43.4					-26.0
Kyrola	64	- 5	23		1847.		24.8	73	54.0			1376.5		
Tuomala	64	25	26	0	1847.				59.9		1446.7	1390'7	1389.8	+ 0.9
Lassila	64	45	24	38	1847.	73	50.2		19.4					+19.4
Uleaborg*	65	3	25	27	1847.	74			35.2		1435 2	1383.6	1398.6	-15.0
Wuornos	65	36	25	26	1847.	74			30.0					-22.9
Rautiola								75	19,1		1437.9	1390.0	1405.2	-14.3
Tornea	65	52	23	30		74	52.3			380.5				
					1849.	-	48.4				0			1 6.0
II aanaway da d	6 -			•	-0.0	74	50.3	75	19.5	381.4				+ 6.8
Haaparanda† Alkula ‡	66	52	23	30	1849.	74	201	74	57.3	392.5	1427 0	1378.1	1404 1	-200
Aikuia	00	20	23	49	1849.	/4	15.5		19	3.8				
					1049.	74		7.4	477.4		T4 52.8	1401.9	14 10.0	2.7
Toluanen ‡	66	26	22	52	T847		31.0		47 <b>.</b> 4			1401'1		
Turtola ‡	66	12	23	40	1847.				16.9					- 8.4
Kardis Lappl.‡	67	-0	23	30	1847.	75	4.4		33.6	374.3	1452'0	1407'1	14.18.0	- 10.9
Kexiswaara‡							45.2		14.4	366.1	1487.8	1445.1	14206	+24.5
Muonionisca ‡					1847.		32.0	ľ		364.7	. ,	1.13	·	
			-		1849.		31.0			5.6				
						75	31.2	75	59.7	365.2				- 14.5
Kätkesuando ‡	68	. 7	23	22	1849.		32'1	76	1.3	359.8				-32.8
Palajoensu					1849.	76	5.7	76	34.9	350.0	1456.4	1416.9	1432.2	- 16.6
Kaaressuando		24	22	8	1849.	75	37.1	76	6.3	359.3				-29.4
Kielli-jarwi		5	20		1849.	75	52.4	76	21.6	355.1				-250
Tromsöe§						70	11'4	70	40.6	348'1				-25.2
Hammerfest    Havösund ¶	70	40	23		1849.		46.1		13.0	344 3	1500 2	1434.8	1466.1	- 1.0
Kielwig Mageroe	71								23.8	330 /	14/10	1434 0	1467.5	-29.2
Kitai-Insel**	68	28	28		1849.	75	50.6	76	9.6	358.2	1464.6	1422.0	14.76.7	- 54°7
Archangel††					1849.		58.8		8.3	405.4	1468.0	1413'0	1439'1	-26.1
Bobrowsk					1849.	74			11.0	404.5	1469.6	1414.0	1440.8	-26.8
Kaduish	62	5.5	41	30			19.6	73	29'1	420'2	1464.5	1404'1	1422.8	- 18.4
Plesskaja	62	3.5	40	55	1849.		46.7	72	57.2	429.8	1451.7	1387.9	1408'3	-204
Krassnowskaja	62	IC	40	10	1849.	72								-28.6
Ustwelskoi	61	55	39	12	1849.	72			25.3					- 17.6
Kargopol	61	43	38	57	1849.	72	8.2	72	19.2	444.4	1448.6	1380.5	1395.7	- I 5°5
Badoshkaja Wytegra	6.	48	37	30	1849.	71	25.3	71	28.0	4590	1440.8	1300.1	1391.1	- 6.9
Gomorowitschi														
Petersburg ‡‡	50	55	134	35 T8	1840	70	34 4	70	50.0	4500	T420'8	1242'2	13/10	- 3·8
0 **	لأدا	٠,٠	122		1	1,	23 -	1,	5,50	17/3	1 7 - 0	1.3.13 2	.3-17	, , ,

<sup>\*</sup> Hansteen 1825,  $\Delta Z = -12^{\circ}0$ . † Hansteen 1825,  $\Delta Z = -12^{\circ}1$ . ‡ Hansteen 1825,  $\Delta Z + 0^{\circ}1$ ; many iron mines in the vicinity; quantities of magnetic ironsand on the banks of Tornea river. § Keilhau,  $\Delta V + 31^{\circ}2$ . || Sabine,  $+2^{\circ}3$ ; Keilhau,  $-30^{\circ}9$ . ¶ Keilhau,  $-27^{\circ}4$ . \*\* Keilhau,  $-3^{\circ}2$ . † Reinicke and Mailander,  $-62^{\circ}5$ . ‡‡ Inclination observed by me; force by Kupffer; earlier observations gave  $\Delta Z = -9^{\circ}3$ . 4\*

In the above table, the horizontal force was obtained by vibrations, and reduced to 0° Reaumur. Before and after my journey in 1847, the force was determined at Dorpat by Gauss's method, and the needle employed compared therewith and reduced to the intensity in London=1372. Subsequently I preferred for trying the needles, Poisson's method, at least for traveling purposes; but some alterations require to be introduced in Poisson's formula, as he has overlooked some things. With the same needle which I employed in both my journeys, I have made more than 60 determinations of absolute force at Dorpat, partly in a room and partly in the open air, and in temperatures varying from -13° R. to + 25° R., and have found a very good accordance. I also made several such determinations in the journeys of 1848 and 1849.

As I do not possess an observatory, and cannot employ a Bifilar in my dwelling-house, it has not been possible for me to compare the variations of the force with my determinations; I have however made use of the following method:— If X be the magnetism of the earth and m that of the needle, I seek not X but m; this latter quantity depends on the temperature t and the time t, as the needle is not constant; but if I combine all the values of t0 by an equation of the form

 $m = A + B e^{-aT} + e \cdot t$ 

and calculate the constants, the error is about  $\frac{1}{600}$  m. Besides this, several simultaneous observations with Gauss's apparatus have shown that the value of m was itself correct.

The Inclinations have in part been determined by two needles which agreed very well with each other; they are so balanced that I can always take the mean of the eight arcs. On the other hand they are subject to the error of the axle, which I cannot exactly correct, but which does not however exceed 5'. It was only last summer, when I examined the subject more closely, that I became aware you had likewise the idea of loading the needle, and observing in different azimuths. In our latitudes the best loading is such as will cause the north pole to be in one set about 10° above, and in a second set 10° below the horizontal line. Three series which I made with one needle were calculated by my friend Claussen, who in doing so was led to a method of entirely eliminating the form of the axle. Take a well-balanced needle, the axles of which are not cylindrical; different degrees of magnetic force can be given to it without reversing the poles. Taking the strongest force as unity, it is not practically advantageous to go to lower ratios than  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{8}$ . Though vibration experiments with dipping-needles are not generally advantageous, yet they suffice in this case, as an approximately correct proportion of the intensities is all that is wanted. It is sufficient to make, with each degree of intensity, the two observations with the face east and face west, without reversing the needle on its supports; if the latter is done, it gives a second determination, affording a check upon the first. You will then find that the mean of the two observations in one position of the axles is less than the

true inclination, and in the other position greater; the difference in both cases being more considerable as the intensity of the needle is weaker. Let  $I_0$ ,  $I_1$ ,  $I_2$ , &c. be the inclination observed with different intensities;  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ , &c. be the times of vibration, which increase as the index increases; a small correction is required, which can be determined in the following manner.—Take either  $I_0$  or a somewhat less value (in round minutes) as being nearly correct, and let

$$I_0 - I_1 = \Delta I_1$$
, ;  $I_0 - I_2 = \Delta I_2$ , &c.,

then

$$\Delta I = x + T^2 y;$$

x being the correction; thus I found

Az. 
$$0$$
; I= $70^{\circ}$   $23^{\circ}$ 8. Az.  $180^{\circ}$ ; I= $71^{\circ}$   $26^{\circ}$ 5. Mean  $70^{\circ}$   $55^{\circ}$ 1. T= $1^{\circ}$ 167. Az. 0; I= $70^{\circ}$  48.7. Az. 180; I= $71^{\circ}$  44.7. Mean  $71^{\circ}$  15.2. T= $1.738$ . Az. 0; I= $66^{\circ}$  16.0. Az. 180; I= $84^{\circ}$  16.5. Mean  $75^{\circ}$  36.3. T= $4.25^{\circ}$ .

If I take  $70^{\circ}$  55'·0 as nearly correct, I obtain the three following equations;

$$C' \cdot 1 = x + (1 \cdot 167)^{\circ} y$$
;  $20' \cdot 2 = x + (1 \cdot 738)^{\circ} y$ ;  $281 \cdot 3 = x + (4 \cdot 25)^{\circ} y$ .

The three equations have not however the same weight, as the directive force is less in proportion as T is larger; in order to give them all the same weight I divide each by the coefficient of y, and thus obtain in logarithms

$$8.86586 = 9.86586 x + y$$
;  $0.82525 = 9.51990 x + y$ ;  $1.19239 = 8.74322 x + y$ .

and hence  $x=21'\cdot 8$ ; and the true dip= $70^{\circ} 33'\cdot 2$ .

I have here taken an imperfect needle, which I also observed in Azimuths of  $30^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$ ; in one position of the axles I obtained  $70^{\circ}$   $39' \cdot 5$ ;  $\pm 5' \cdot 9$ ; and in a second  $70^{\circ} \cdot 42' \cdot 5$ ;  $\pm 5' \cdot 4$ ; mean  $70^{\circ} \cdot 41' \cdot 0$ . On a subsequent day I observed with a second needle and obtained  $70^{\circ} \cdot 43' \cdot 4$ ; but an independent needle gave a dip  $2' \cdot 6$  greater, so that the two determinations are  $70^{\circ} \cdot 42' \cdot 1$ ,  $70^{\circ} \cdot 42' \cdot 3$ , if we add to each the half difference.

In this method, in which no reversal is needed, the differences of the partial determinations will appear somewhat large, but you must not forget that instead of the ordinary eight observations only two have been taken.

I permit myself one additional remark. In observations on different azimuths, it is usual to take simply cot  $I = \cot I_1 \cos \alpha$ ; in latitudes where the dips are so high as here and in England, this equation may be employed without much error, as the force in azimuths perpendicular to the meridian is little less than in the meridian; but it is quite otherwise in small dips. With the decrease of force the possibility of error increases, and hence when the observations made in different azimuths are combined as by Kupffer, they have not the same weight. In more exact determinations I employ the following method.

Let K be the total, H the horizontal, V the vertical force, and  $\alpha$  the nearly known azimuth; then

K cos I=H cos 
$$\alpha$$
; K sin I=V; tan I= $\frac{V}{H} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos \alpha}$ ;

whence

$$d = \frac{\cos^{2}I}{\cos a} d {V \choose \overline{H}} + \frac{HV}{K^{2}} \sin a \cdot d a.$$

If on the right we substitute for cos I its value, then

$$dI = \frac{H^2 \cos a}{K^2} d\left(\frac{V}{H}\right) + \frac{HV}{K^2} \sin a d a.$$

As the possibility of error is inversely as the force, I multiply the equation by K, to give to the different determinations equal weight, thus

$$KdI = \frac{H^2 \cos \alpha}{K} d \left(\frac{V}{H}\right) + \frac{HV}{K} \sin \alpha d \alpha :$$

having determined the dips in the customary manner with the approximately known values of a, I obtain the values d I, which serve to find d  $\begin{pmatrix} V \\ H \end{pmatrix}$ ; *i. e.* the correction of I.

I possess now with my instrument six needles, which I hope to compare very accurately with each other in the course of this year; but some months must first elapse, as I make all these determinations in the open air, and the bad autumn we have had has interrupted me in the work. I have had two of my needles fitted according to Fox's method, with wheels on their axles; two others have brass indexes, as was formerly proposed by Bernoulli and Euler (Berlin Trans. 1755), and I can now determine the absolute intensity with the inclinatorium. I know Fox's method only from a short notice in the London and Edinburgh Phil. Mag.; if I do not mistake, he proposed also to determine the declination by the same apparatus. With ordinary needles there remains an uncertainty. If we load the S. end of the needle so that the N. end is about 10° above the horizon, the S. end sinks down; and if we seek the azimuth in which the needle is perpendicular and then observe at about half a degree of azimuth on either side, the inclination alters so rapidly with the azimuth, that I have thus been even able to follow the diurnal variations of the declination; and the magnetic meridian may thus be determined for the observations of absolute declination whilst travelling.

I will not trouble you further as my letter is already so long, and will only add one request. The Phil. Trans. arrive here rather late, and the last communications which I have seen of yours contain Keely's determinations. All the observations of the Erebus and Terror have not yet appeared; in the Atlantic I know only the total intensities but without inclinations or declinations, and yet I am very anxious for some determinations that have been made between 10° and 20° of longitude in the higher latitudes to compare my calculations with them. If your time permits, I should be very much obliged

to you if you could communicate to me the inclination and force at some points. In the mean time I will occupy myself with the discussion of the two horizontal forces; unfortunately the number of determinations serving for this purpose is much smaller. For North America those recorded by Lamont in Dove's 'Repertorium' are for the most part in comparatively low latitudes.

## May 1, 1851.

## The EARL OF ROSSE, President, in the Chair.

A paper was read, entitled "An account of two cases in which an Ovule, or its remains, was discovered after death in the Fallopian tube of the unimpregnated human female, during the period of Menstruation." By H. Letheby, M.B. Communicated by W. B. Curling, Esq., F.R.S. Received Feb. 20, 1851.

At the commencement of the paper the author refers to the opinions of Drs. Power, Lee, Paterson, Barry, Girdwood, and Wharton Jones of this country, and also to those of MM. Valentin, Negrier, Pouchet, Gendrin, Raciborski, and Bischoff on the continent, respecting the supposed nature of the physiological phenomena manifested during the peirod of menstruation; and he mentions the law of Bischoff, namely, that "the ova formed in the ovaries of the females of all mammiferous animals, including the human female, undergo a periodical maturation and exclusion quite independently of the influence of the male seminal fluid. At these periods, known as those of 'heat' or 'the rut' in quadrupeds, and 'menstruation' in the human female, the ova which have become mature, disengage themselves from the ovary and are extruded. If the union of the sexes takes place at this period, the ovum is fecundated by the direct action of the semen upon it, but if no union of the sexes occurs, the ovum is nevertheless evolved from the ovary, and enters the Fallopian tube where it perishes." He states, however, that the arguments which have been advanced in support of this opinion in respect of the human female, are entirely of an analogical character; and that although the ovaries of women who have died during the menstrual period have been frequently examined, and Graafian follicles found in a recently ruptured state, yet the discovery of the liberated ovule had not, so far as the author was aware, ever been detected. The importance of his cases rests upon three grounds, namely,-1st, the circumstances under which the women had died; 2ndly, the finding of recently ruptured Graafian follicles; and 3rdly, the discovery of the ovule and its remains in the fluid matter of the Fallopian tubes.

In the first of the cases recorded, the woman died during a menstrual period. She had been an inmate of the London Hospital for twenty-four days before her death, where she was closely watched day and night by a nurse, in consequence of her having attempted